



Western Reservoir



Welcome Pack

Thank you for your enquiry about the Syndicate. As a potential Member it is likely that you will want to know more information about, and gain an insight into what to expect and what will be expected from you, if your application to join the Syndicate is accepted.

Therefore, I have enclosed leaflets which cover the following:

- 1) Introduction
- 2) Syndicate Application Form
- 3) Terms and Conditions of Membership
- 4) General Rules, Fishing Specific Rules, Guest Rules
- 5) Recommended Health and Safety Guidelines
- 6) Declaration and Disclaimer*

I post Catch Reports on our website so prospective Members and those interested in the local carp scene can gain an insight into how the venue is progressing.

For information on fish stocks, stocking levels Lake Records etc. Check out: [Western Reservoir 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 - Kingfisher Lakes - Carp Fishing in North and Western Regions of England](#)

Please contact me at: kingfisherlakes@hotmail.co.uk if you have any further questions.

Best regards,

Steve Jackson, Syndicate Controller

(*At this stage for information only).



Western Reservoir Introduction

The Western Reservoir is part of the Whittle Dene complex of seven reservoirs and treatment works located 12 miles (19 km) to the west of Newcastle upon Tyne.

The reservoirs were completed in 1848, and have given Newcastle and Gateshead a clean and regular supply of drinking water ever since.

Having previously been leased by a local game angling club the reservoir remained un-fished for several years after the club relinquished the fishing rights to the water, which in the past had only ever been stocked with trout.

Northumberland isn't exactly blessed with many carp fishing venues, so when the opportunity arose to create a much-needed carp fishing amenity for anglers in the North East, local angler Steve Jackson began discussions to secure the fishing rights on the reservoir and develop it into a carp water.

Negotiations with Northumbrian Water were completed in 2012 and Steve, as Syndicate Controller has run the 17.5-acre Western Reservoir as a Private Members Only Carp Fishing Syndicate since then, the Syndicate operates 365 days per year including night fishing.

The reservoir has depths ranging between 8-20 feet with the western end being the shallowest with the depth of water gradually increasing towards the eastern end.

The Western received an initial stocking of C2 carp in March 2011. The main stocking of C3, C4, and C5 carp took place in April 2012, with an additional stocking of C2 and C2.5 fish being stocked later that year. Since then, a further stocking of C3 and C4 carp took place in October 2017 and January 2023.

Given that a number of the fish stocked were C2 – C2.5 carp it's difficult to quantify how many recruited through; a realistic estimate that Members agree with is that the venue contains over 400 carp, plus home-grown fish that are recruiting through from subsequent spawning's.

Over the last couple of years, the venue has produced over 42 different 20lb+ carp to upper twenties, with Catch Reports received from Members indicating the majority of fish in the reservoir are now well into double figures, and that the average overall size of carp is steadily increasing year on year.

Set in beautiful Northumbrian countryside the Western offers its Members quality fishing in quiet and peaceful surroundings; the venue is establishing its self as a good doubles water with an increasing number of mid to upper doubles and 20lb+ carp to target.

The Syndicate has its own private car parking area and male and female toilet facilities are provided on site.

Syndicate Membership will be at a cost of £325.00 per year plus a Joining Fee of £50.00, with Membership running for 12 months from 1st May to 30th April.

If you are interested in joining and would like to be considered for Membership please complete the attached application form and return it to: kingfisherlakes@hotmail.co.uk or alternatively submit your Application online at: <http://www.kingfisherlakes.com/application-form/>



KINGFISHER — L A K E S —

Western Reservoir Syndicate Application Form

As a potential Member the information found in the Welcome Pack and on our website provides the background of our Syndicate, and allows you to gain an insight into what to expect and what will be expected from you. While the Syndicate may be right for you, we need to establish that you are right for the Syndicate to ensure we maintain a good balance and protect the interests of the existing Members.

Please complete this form as fully as possible so we can find out a little about yourself and gain a small insight into your attitude to Carp fishing in particular.

1. Full Name:
2. Address:
.....
Postcode:
3. Home Telephone Number: Mobile:
4. E-mail:
5. Date of Birth: Occupation:
6. Names of other Fishing Clubs / Syndicates which you have been (or still are) a Member of in the last 10 years:
.....
7. (Please indicate) Which Syndicate would like to join?
Western Reservoir or Western Reservoir Winter Ticket
Will this be the first Syndicate you have applied to join? Yes / No
(Please indicate) The 2 days / nights you usually fish: Mon / Tues / Wed / Thur / Fri / Sat / Sun
On average how many nights per week do you fish between April and October?
One / Two / Three / Four / Five / Six / Seven
8. Number of years carp fishing experience:
9. What attracted you to our Syndicate and what do you expect to gain from becoming a Member?
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.....
.....
10. Please provide details of Referees (i.e. existing Syndicate Members, current Committee Members of Other Angling Clubs or Associations, Fishery Owners / Managers who are prepared to vouch for you).
Referee one: Referee two:
Contact details: Contact details:
.....
.....

If you are unable to provide details of Referees in order to assist your Application please supply information of your fishing CV to date along with a photo or two of captures of carp you have made and email them with the completed Application Form to: kingfisherlakes@hotmail.co.uk or alternatively submit your Application online at: <http://www.kingfisherlakes.com/application-form/>



Western Reservoir Terms and Conditions of Membership

Membership of the Syndicate is at the discretion of the Syndicate Controller upon receipt of the relevant Membership/Joining Fee in force at the time, along with an acceptable Syndicate Application Form and signed Syndicate Declaration and Disclaimer.

All Members must read the Western Reservoir Terms and Conditions and Rules as a requirement for Membership of the Syndicate, and also read the Western Reservoir Recommended Health and Safety Guidelines.

Anyone can apply for Membership of the Syndicate which is limited to 45 Full paying Members as determined by the Syndicate Controller.

Membership is deemed to run from 1st May until 30th April and is strictly non-transferable.

A deposit of £50.00 must be paid before 28th February each year to retain and secure Membership for the forthcoming season, and the balance of Membership fees must be paid in full before the new season commences on 1st May.

Any Member who fails to pay the required deposit before 28th February is assumed to have decided to decline Membership for the season commencing on 1st May, and will be deemed to have surrendered their Membership of the Syndicate.

If Fees have not been paid in full by 1st May each year, Membership will be considered to be lapsed, and the vacated Membership will be offered to a prospective Member on the waiting list.

No person shall be allowed to fish until payment has been made in full and photographic Syndicate ID and current Year Card have been issued.

A limited number of Winter Tickets (November – April) will be available. Priority for Full Membership will be given to Winter Ticket holders.

A limited number of Associate Tickets will be available to Members of Aldermere Carp Syndicate, and Members of the North, South and Long Pond Syndicates.

Any Members of the Syndicate whose conduct is deemed to be inappropriate, or who declines to abide by any of the Terms and Conditions or Rules of the Syndicate, will be expelled from the Syndicate. Their Membership will be terminated and Membership/Joining Fees/Deposit paid will be forfeited and no refunds given.

The Syndicate Controller accepts no responsibility for any loss of angling facility that may occur at or to the Western Reservoir howsoever caused which includes but is not limited to: Disaster, Accident, War, Disease, Flood, Drought etc., whereby fishing is rendered impossible, no refunds will be issued in such circumstances.

The Syndicate Controller reserves the right to review the Terms and Conditions, Rules and Recommended Health and Safety Guidelines of the Syndicate, and amend or alter them as he deems necessary.



KINGFISHER — L A K E S —

Western Reservoir Rules

These Rules are in place to protect both the carp and angler's welfare while at the fishery, and must be adhered to at all times.

Western Reservoir Rules

General Rules

- 1.1 Members must be in possession of current E.A rod licence(s) and observe the regulations and by-laws of the Environment Agency.
- 1.2 Members must be in possession of their Syndicate ID and valid Year Card when fishing or visiting the venue, and show them on demand to the Syndicate Controller, his Bailiffs, other Members, the Environment Agency, Northumbrian Water Rangers or Northumbrian Water Representatives.
- 1.3 Members must be in possession of a copy of the Western Reservoir Rules and Recommended Health and Safety Guidelines when fishing at the venue.
- 1.4 No litter will be tolerated! Take all litter including cigarette ends and tea bags home.
- 1.5 No fires or barbeques are allowed under any circumstances. Cooking stoves are permitted.
- 1.6 No guns or weapons of any kind are allowed at, or in the vicinity of the reservoir.
- 1.7 No swimming or wading or walking on ice if the lake is frozen.
- 1.8 No fishing from boats and no boats/inflatables etc... to be used on the reservoir.
- 1.9 No drugs. Alcohol is allowed in moderation any Member who, in the opinion of the Syndicate Controller, his Bailiffs, the Environment Agency, Northumbrian Water Rangers or Northumbrian Water Representatives is deemed to be unfit to fish due to the influence of alcohol or drugs, will be expelled from the Syndicate.
- 1.10 No carp sacks. Any Member found with a sacked fish or found retaining a carp in a sack for any reason, will be deemed to be wanting to remove the fish for dishonest reasons, and will be immediately expelled from the Syndicate without recourse. The Syndicate Controller may then take further action under the Theft Act 1968.
- 1.11 No shock leaders or braided main line except on spod or marker rods.
- 1.12 No lead core to be used, proprietary 'Safe' leaders are permitted.
- 1.13 No unattended rods.
- 1.14 No cutting or pruning of any trees, shrubs or plants.
- 1.15 No Shouting, and the volume of any Radios, TV's or DVD Players etc. used must be kept low.
- 1.16 No non-members or non-fishing guests allowed except Members partners or their children.
- 1.17 Children under 8 years old are NOT allowed to fish and all children under 16 years of age must be accompanied by the Member at all times.
- 1.18 Cars must be parked in the designated car parks at the western end of the reservoir or in the small shared car park beside the house, which can only be accessed strictly between 8am and 8pm.
- 1.19 Limited parking is available along the roadside on the dam wall. Members must not cause any obstruction to the access gates and must follow the instructions given by signage in place.
- 1.20 Maximum speed of 10 MPH on the track leading to the car park.
- 1.21 Well behaved bivvy dogs are allowed and must be kept under control and secured on a lead at ALL times and ALL mess must be cleaned up immediately.



KINGFISHER — L A K E S —

Western Reservoir Rules

Fishing Specifics

- 2.1 The maximum number of Members and Guests allowed to fish on the reservoir at any one time is restricted to 30. Members are individually responsible for ensuring this maximum is not exceeded.
- 2.2 Members must not bivvy up within 50 yards of the house and must observe the 'No bivvies' Beyond This Point' signs in place.
- 2.3 A Maximum three rod limit for carp fishing applies 1st April – 31st October; a fourth rod may be used for carp fishing from 1st November – 31st March
- 2.4 A fourth rod and keep net may be used for pleasure fishing and retaining species other than carp.
- 2.5 All nets, slings, mats etc. must be 'bone dry' before commencing fishing.
- 2.6 Landing nets 42" and above must be used. Carp can be retained in the landing net or in a short-term flotation sling while you sort out weighing and camera equipment.
- 2.7 Use of a large well-padded unhooking mat is compulsory.
- 2.8 A carp care kit consisting of: Klink (or equivalent), forceps, wire snips and water container must be used and all hook holds, cuts or abrasions on any carp captured must be treated.
- 2.9 All carp must be carried to the unhooking mat in a landing net and returned to the water via a sling or zipped unhooking mat.
- 2.10 No fish to be removed introduced or moved between reservoirs.
- 2.11 Minimum line strength for carp fishing 12lb mono.
- 2.12 No permanently fixed lead rigs are to be used, - semi-fixed lead rigs utilising a safety bolt clip or running leads must be used. The Syndicate Controller and his Bailiffs reserve the right to check rigs in use at any time, and Members must reel in immediately if asked to take part in a rig check.
- 2.13 Maximum hook – size 4, minimum hook – size 10. Barbless, de-barbed or micro-barbed hooks only. Bent hooks are not permitted!
- 2.14 No nuts to be used. All other particles must be well prepared, which includes both soaking and boiling correctly.
- 2.15 Bait boats are allowed if used sensibly, and do not interfere with the fishing of other Members.
- 2.16 Members must weigh and photograph all carp caught (even if just on the mat), and submit details of any captures made by the end of the caught month via email to: kingfisherlakes@hotmail.co.uk
- 2.17 All Members, accompanying partners or their children, and any authorised guests, must have with them a head torch and a spare torch. These must be used when fishing in lowlight conditions or during the hours of darkness. I.E. one head torch and one spare torch per person.
- 2.18 The Western is an operational reservoir and has no formal swims, Members are expected to show respect towards fellow anglers and fish in a gentlemanly manner and not encroach on areas of water that should rightly be fished from another swim.
- 2.19 Members are **NOT** allowed to sit inside their vehicle while fishing from the dam wall.
- 2.20 No fishing from the dam wall after dark or during the hours of darkness.
- 2.21 Noise must be kept to a minimum when arriving early or when fishing close to the house in consideration of the residents: I.E No slamming of car doors etc.



Western Reservoir Rules

Fishing Specifics

Rules for fishing in the corners and off the road bank and dam wall areas

- 3.1 Always chat to the fellow angler who is already fishing to ascertain where their baits are. A lot of Members fish a margin rod 40 or so yards up/down the bank from where they are bivvied up so be aware of this when setting up, if arriving early or late please don't intentionally wake another Member to ask where their left /right hand rod may be.
- 3.2 When fishing the first Bivvy peg on the house bank; don't expect to control all of the water from the buoy to the outflow on the road bank. If you are fishing into the house corner be prepared to have to move that rod during the day should another Member wish to fish off the road bank or off the end of the fence into the corner.
- 3.3 Members arriving at first light should be aware that a Member fishing the first Bivvy peg overnight may be fishing their rods into the house corner, to prevent conflict and avoid casting over their rods the Member fishing on the first Bivvy peg can fish this area overnight up until 7am. Any Member wishing to fish this corner can do so after 7am but they must inform the Member fishing the first Bivvy peg that they intend to do so before casting in.
- 3.4 If you arrive before 7am and a Member is fishing overnight on the first Bivvy peg you can fish the water to the left of the old no fishing sign up to the tower.
- 3.5 If someone is doing a day session off the road bank in the house corner they control the water up to the end of the house Fence and up to the old no fishing sign, conversely anyone fishing from the end of the house Fence controls the water up to the dam wall and up to the old no fishing sign.
- 3.6 If you are fishing "out of area" for example from Hedge End to the out flow be prepared to have to move that rod during the day should a Member wish to fish from the Gate swim or off the road bank between the corner and the out flow or between the outflow and the tower.
- 3.7 If fishing off the West end of the reservoir wall (with the pond behind you), be mindful of anglers in The Lawns or Cormorant Corner and vice versa.
- 3.8 If no one is fishing cast where you want and bait up where you want, but be prepared to have to move rods.
- 3.9 Feel free to pre-bait, but be mindful that another Member may wish to fish in the corners and you may have to move rods.
- 3.10 Do not be tempted to send/cast a lead over to/at any Member who is in breach of the Rules, report any infringement to the Syndicate Controller or one of the Bailiffs, a crack off or miss judged cast could lead to a serious injury to a fellow angler or member of the public using the road.

The above Rules have been introduced so the Western remains an enjoyable and pleasant venue for all Members to fish.



Western Reservoir Rules

Guests

- 4.1 Syndicate Members can request up to four 24-hour Guest sessions per season for which a fee will be charged for each 24-hour period or part thereof.
- 4.2 All Guests must be in possession of current E.A rod licence(s) and observe the regulations and by-laws of the Environment Agency.
- 4.3 The Syndicate Controller must be aware of all Guests prior to them fishing, and a valid permit must be issued in advance.
- 4.4 Members must be present at the reservoir at all times while their Guest is fishing and all authorised Guests must be in possession of a valid permit issued by the Syndicate Controller.
- 4.5 No Guests are allowed during the month of May.
- 4.6 Only two authorised Guests are allowed to fish on the reservoir at any time.
- 4.7 Members are responsible for their Guest at all times! If your Guest abuses the Rules of the Syndicate, or their conduct is deemed to be inappropriate, their permit will be revoked and they will be expelled from the venue, and any fees paid will be forfeited with no refunds given. Infringement of the Rules of the Syndicate by your Guest may jeopardise your Membership, and lead to your expulsion from the Syndicate.

It is **recommended** that Members ensure the welfare of Guests, who accompany them at the reservoir by informing them of the Western Reservoir Recommended Health and Safety Guidelines.

Carp Care

We all respect and do our utmost to care for the carp we capture, and in addition to the basics we all undertake, Members need to be aware that due to the gradients of the banks surrounding the Western, extra care should be taken to avoid accident or incident when handling fish on the bank.

- After netting fish allow them a few moments rest in the net to recover before taking them to the unhooking mat.
- **Keep the carp wet at all times.**
- Before unhooking fish ensure unhooking mats are placed on a flat area on top of the bank, **do not attempt to unhook carp on the sloping banks of the reservoir.**
- When moving fish to or from the water don't rush and take care not to slip, **never** carry the fish unsupported to or from the water even for short distances.
- When photographing fish support the carp over the mat, **kneel** and do not lift above **waist** height, **never** leave the fish unattended or attempt to stand up while holding the fish.
- When returning carp after capture please ensure they are fully recovered before releasing.



Western Reservoir Recommended Health and Safety Guidelines

It is **recommended** that Members ensure the welfare of their partners, children, and any authorised guests, who accompany them at the reservoir by informing them of the following guidelines:

1. To minimise the risk of catching Weil's disease it is **recommended** to wear water proof gloves, ensure all open wounds and abrasions are adequately covered, and to wash hands before handling or eating food. Hand washing facilities are provided in the toilets on site. If you develop a severe headache, redness of the eyes or a red non-blanching pinprick rash on your skin, or 'flu' like symptoms within 3-14 days of participating in angling activities, it is strongly advised to contact your GP and inform him you may have contracted Weil's disease. Further information can be found at: www.leptospirosis.org
2. To minimise the risk of slipping on the banks surrounding the reservoir it is **recommended** that sturdy foot wear with cleated soles is worn at all times.
3. To minimise the risk of injury during strong winds it is **recommended** to avoid sheltering or pitching your bivvy or shelter under or beside the trees that surround the reservoir.
4. To minimise the risk of accidents occurring when fishing in lowlight conditions or during the hours of darkness it is **recommended** that extra care be taken, and spare batteries for torches should be carried.
5. To minimise the risk of injury during thunder or electrical storms it is **recommended** not to set up in, tackle down, cast, re-cast or handle any fishing rods or implements until the storm has ended.
6. To minimise the risk of accident or injury from other road users along the dam wall road bank it is **recommended** that Members be vigilant and take extra care when exiting or entering, loading or unloading their vehicles; when parking along the road side **be aware** of other road users including farm traffic, cyclists and pedestrians.
7. It is **recommended** that Members carry a basic first aid kit to treat minor injuries or ailments.
8. It is **recommended** that any accidents or injuries sustained by Members, accompanying partners, their children, and any authorised Guests are recorded and the Syndicate Controller be informed.

ACCIDENT and EMERGENCY

In an Emergency Call 999

Site Address: Western Reservoir, Whittle Dene, Northumberland NE18 0LH

The nearest Hospitals that have Accident and Emergency Departments are:

Hexham General Hospital, Corbridge Road, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 1QJ

Contact: 0844 811 8111 (Approximately 10 miles from Whittle Dene)

Royal Victoria Infirmary, Queen Victoria Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4LP

Contact: (0191) 233 6161 (Switchboard) - Ext 26100 or 26200 (Approximately 14 miles from Whittle Dene)

Members should note that due to the location of the Western Reservoir it may be quicker to travel to the Accident and Emergency Department at the **Royal Victoria Infirmary**.



WESTERN RESERVOIR DECLARATION AND DISCLAIMER

I have read the Western Reservoir Terms and Conditions and Rules as required for Membership of the Syndicate. I have also read the Western Reservoir Recommended Health and Safety Guidelines, and by signing this Declaration and Disclaimer I understand and agree to the Terms and Conditions of the Syndicate and agree to abide by the Rules in force at all times.

I also accept that infringement may jeopardise my Membership and lead to expulsion, whereby my Membership will be terminated and Membership/Joining-Fees/Deposit paid will be forfeited with no refunds given.

I understand and accept that I enter the Western Reservoir entirely at my own risk, and that the Syndicate Controller, his Bailiffs and the Owners of the reservoir accept no responsibility for my personal safety, the safety of my partner, children or that of any authorised guests who may accompany me whilst at the reservoir.

I also understand and accept that no liability attaches to either the Syndicate Controller, his Bailiffs or the Owners of the reservoir, in respect of any damage, injury or loss to my person, that of my partner, children or of any authorised guests who may accompany me, my property, possessions or car, howsoever caused, whilst at the reservoir, and that this includes the use of tools, machinery or equipment during organised work parties.

I understand that this Declaration and Disclaimer stands for the duration of my Membership.

Name:

Signed:

Date:

Your statutory rights are not affected.